

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3393

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN PFOR WA
SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON CUCESSION OF STATES AND TREATIES

REF: VIENNA 2650, STATE 075178

1. PROGRESS OF CONFERENCE HALTED FOR 24 HOURS BY DIFFICULTY CONCERNING REQUEST OF NAMIBIA COUNCIL TO CIRCULATE A PROPOSAL. SECT., AFTER CONSULTATION WITH CONFERENCE PRES. ZEMANEK (AUSTRIA), INFORMED NAMIBIA COUNCIL REPS THAT CONFERENCES' DECISION IN EXPRESS TERMS TO LET THEM SIT AMONG DELEGATES AND SPEAK AT WILL DID NOT INCLUDE RIGHT TO CIRCULATE PROPOSALS.

2. AFRICAN GROUP IMMEDIATELY REFUSED TO CONTINUE WORK OF CONFERENCE UNTIL THIS MATTER RESOLVED. MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF AFRICAN GROUP LED BY KATEKA (TANZANIA) WANTED TO INSIST THAT CONFERENCE DECIDE IMMEDIATELY THAT NAMIBIA COUNCIL BE ACCORDED IDENTICAL RIGHTS TO STATES PARTICIPATING I.E. RIGHT TO VOTE, SIGN THE FINAL ACT AND BECOME PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION. MORE MODERATE MEMBERS OF AFRICAN GROUP PREVAILED TO EXTENT WEST WEAS OFFERED "COMPROMISE" PURSUANT TO WHICH PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE WOULD INDICATE
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THAT IN LIGHT OF CONSULTATIONS IT AGREE NAMIBIA COUNCIL COULD CIRCULATE WRITTEN PROPOSALS. AFRICANS ATTACHED ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS THAT THIS "COMPROMISE" HAD TO BE ACCEPTED BY CONFERENCE WITHOUT A VOTE AND THAT CONFERENCE ACT IMMEDIATELY UPON THE PROPOSAL.

3. WEO GROUP HAD PROLONGED DISCUSSION IN WHICH MUCH TIME

WAS DEVOTED TO ULTIMATUM ASPECTS OF AFRICAN POSITION, THUS CUTTING OFF CHANCE OF CONSULTING GOVERNMENTS BY THOSE DELEGATIONS LACKING INSTRUCTIONS. DESPITE SOME TENDENCY TO REJECT PROPOSAL BECAUSE OF ULTIMATUM GROUP FINALLY AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT.

4. CONFERENCE CONVENED AND IT DECIDED ALLOW CIRCULATION OF NAMIBIA COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION. UK, FRANCE, FRG, NETHERLANDS BELGIUM SATED AFTER DECISION THAT HAD THERE BEEN A VOTE THEY WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED. US STATED THAT WE HAD NOT OBJECTED TO DECISION SINCE WE ABLE VIEW AN INTRUSION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH WAS A PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE OF STATES TO DRAFT A CONVENTION AND OPEN IT TO SIGNATURE BY STATES.

5. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT AT SOME POINT AFRICANS WILL MAKE FURTHER DEMAND THAT CONFERENCE DECIDE TO ALLOW NAMIBIA COUNCIL TO SIGN FINAL ACT AND EVEN BECOME PARTY TO CONVENTION. OEVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF WEO STATES ARE OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH DECISION THOUGH WHETHER THEY WOULD ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST ANY SUCH PROPOSAL NOT CLEAR AT THIS STATGE. WE PLAN ABSTAIN IF THESE QUESTIONS PUSHED TO VOTE UNLESS MAJORITY OF WEO GROUP INCLINED TO VOTE AGAINST. IF MAJORITY WEO GROUP PLANS VOTE AGAINST, WE WOULD ALSO VOTE AGAINST UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY. MEEHAN

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